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The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Letter dated 7 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement concerning the Taliban edict on the destruction of all statues in Afghanistan issued on 1 March 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 46.

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 7 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Taliban edict on the destruction of all statues in Afghanistan issued on 1 March 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

It is with dismay and shock that the European Union has received information about the edict of the Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, in which the destruction of all statues and shrines in Afghanistan is ordered.

The artefacts in Afghanistan are of priceless historic value. Afghanistan's rich cultural heritage is of vital importance not only to Afghanistan but to the world as a whole. The European Union strongly urges the Taliban leadership not to implement this deeply tragic decision, which will deprive the people of Afghanistan of its rich cultural heritage.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.